

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 093832  
ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02  
AID-05 L-03 H-02 ACDA-10 MC-02 NSC-05 SP-02  
SS-15 PA-02 PRS-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:RJSLOTT:RF  
APPROVED BY PM/SAS - SWINSHIP  
NEA/RA - COL. HOBBS (INFO)  
NEA/IAI - MR. STERNBERG (INFO)  
DOD/DSAA - LT. COL. MARTIN (INFO)  
-----270458Z 002564 /20  
R 262137Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
INFO SECDEF  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 093832

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:MASS, IS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FMS SALES OF 155MM. SELF-PROPELLED  
HOWITZERS AND M-60 TANKS TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 072947

1. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL, CONGRESS WAS PROVIDED FORMAL CERTIFI-  
CATION ON APRIL 25 RELATED TO PROPOSED LETTERS OF OFFER FOR  
THE FMS SALES OF 155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS AND  
M-60 TANKS TO ISRAEL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 36(B) OF  
THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT, AS AMENDED, THE QUOTE LETTER  
OF OFFER SHALL NOT BE ISSUED IF THE CONGRESS, WITHIN THIRTY  
CALENDAR DAYS AFTER RECEIVING SUCH CERTIFICATION, ADOPTS A  
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION STATING THAT IT OBJECTS TO THE PRO-  
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POSED SALE UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS OF UNCLASSIFIED  
POLICY JUSTIFICATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED CERTIFICATION RE  
155MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS: QUOTE THE PROPOSED LETTER  
OF OFFER PROVIDES FOR THE SALE TO ISRAEL OF ADDITIONAL  
ARTILLERY PIECES AT A COST OF \$52 MILLION. THESE NEWLY

ACQUIRED HOWITZERS WOULD COMPLEMENT SUCH WEAPONS NOW IN THE ISRAELI ARMS INVENTORY AND WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH A FORCE STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DEVELOPED BY ISRAEL AFTER

THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR. THAT PLAN CALLS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ARTILLERY PIECES TO ENHANCE THE MOBILITY AND FIREPOWER OF ISRAELI ARMY DIVISIONS.

THIS SALE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE US COMMITMENT TO ASSIST ISRAEL IN MAINTAINING ITS SECURITY. THE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT APPRECIABLY AFFECT THE OVERALL MILITARY BALANCE IN THE AREA. UNQUOTE

3. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS OF UNCLASSIFIED POLICY JUSTIFICATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED CERTIFICATION RE M-60 TANKS: QUOTE THIS PROPOSED SALE, VALUED AT \$84.9 MILLION, WOULD PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH ADDITIONAL M-60 TANKS. THIS INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TANKS IN THE ISRAELI ARMY IS PART OF A FORCE AUGMENTATION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM THAT ISRAEL UNDERTOOK AFTER THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR.

THE LAST PREVIOUS PROPOSED SALE OF TANKS (M48A5 MODELS) TO ISRAEL WAS SUBMITTED FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW IN AUGUST 1976 (TRANSMITTAL 7T-14).

THE UNITED STATES HAS A COMMITMENT TO ASSIST ISRAEL IN MAINTAINING ITS SECURITY AND BELIEVES THAT THE SALE OF THESE TANKS ISSUPPORTIVE OF THIS COMMITMENT AND WOULD NOT APPRECIABLY AFFECT THE OVERALL MILITARY BALANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE MIDDLE EAST. UNQUOTE.

4. AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT OF THIS CERTIFICATION.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY SALES, ARTILLERY, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RJSLOTT:RF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED FMS SALES OF 155MM. SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS AND M-60 TANKS TO ISRAEL  
**TAGS:** MASS, IS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009